

**From:** [Fowlow, Jeffrey](#)  
**To:** [Sibley, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Abandoned Biodiesel Plant-Odesa, WA 3/10/15  
**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:58:28 PM

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**From:** French, Gerald (ECY) [mailto:GEFR461@ECY.WA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 3:27 PM  
**To:** French, Gerald (ECY); Liverman, Earl  
**Cc:** Fowlow, Jeffrey; Weigel, Greg  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Biodiesel Plant-Odesa, WA 3/10/15

I need to include some other information about the three tanks located outside and west of the building. (b) (6) (b) (6)  
(b) (6). You should see the tanks in the 3/3/15 PhotoLog I had sent to you. The following information is (b) (6) what were in the tank as of June 2015. We don't know if Transmessis removed any of the chemicals from these three tanks after June 2015.

North Tank-Holds @ 3-10,000 gallons methanol  
Middle Tank-Holds glycerin. (Note that during the 3/3/15 inspection I observed the float gauge to be @ 6 foot full)  
South Tank-Holds @ 3,000-5,000 gallons methylate

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**From:** French, Gerald (ECY)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 2:23 PM  
**To:** Liverman, Earl  
**Cc:** 'Fowlow.jeffrey@Epamail.epa.gov'; 'Weigel.greg@Epamail.epa.gov'  
**Subject:** Abandoned Biodiesel Plant-Odesa, WA 3/10/15

Earl,

Today I inspected the biodiesel facility located at 206 West Railroad, Odessa, WA. Serious issues with chemical waste management were observed inside the facility. Stacey Rasmussen from the Odessa Public Development Authority (OPDA) was present during the inspection. Ms. Rasmussen had keys to the building and allowed Ecology to inspect inside of the building. Ms. Rasmussen repeated many times that she has no knowledge or technical expertise of chemistry and hazardous material handling. She said that the OPDA has funds of @ several thousand dollars and cannot afford to hire a contractor to properly handle the chemical wastes. I advised Ms. Rasmussen to have the local fire marshall in Lincoln County conduct a fire code inspection of the facility.

The building and property is owned by OPDA. The operator is known as Transmessis Columbia Plateau LLC. Transmessis fired all of the employees and abandoned the building @ June 2014. Transmessis abandoned various chemicals in buckets, drums, totes, supersacks, tanks inside and outside of the building and also laboratory chemicals inside of the building.

Problems found inside of the building:

- Tote of 30% citric acid and 50% sodium hydroxide stored next to each other. Valves on both totes are corroded and leaking. White salts formed on floor near the two leaking totes.
- Sulfuric acid leaking from a tote in middle of facility. Valve on bottom of tote is crusted with salts and leaking into kitty litter. Pool of liquid material flowing from leaking tote next to a storage tank. Base of tank is beginning to corrode. Contents of tank are unknown.
- Valves on storage tanks holding unknown liquids are corroding. Drip leaks from valves onto concrete floor. Crystals formed around the valves.
- Blue paint is blistered and peeling from certain tanks or columns. These tanks might be holding methanol. Methanol potentially eroding away gaskets and flanges causing leakage and blistered and peeled paint. Leaking onto concrete floor and flowing south.
- Liquids leaking from various tanks and valves flowing to south wall and footing. Insulation on walls near floor and footing are deteriorating.
- One 55-gallon drum marked as holding ETHANOX labeled as Class 3, Class 8 and Marine Pollutant. Located on west end of building.
- Three 55-gallon drums labeled as Class 8. Located on west end of building.
- One jug marked as holding 2 propanol. Located on west end of building.
- Two cabinets holding 1 quart sized bottles of biodiesel samples. Most of bottles marked with a June 2014 date or later. One bottle marked with a 10-9-14 date.
- Three totes side by side were open. One tote appeared to be holding orange colored micro-sized plastic beads contaminated with methylate. Beads used to polish the biodiesel and remove contaminants. Other two totes appeared to be holding fatty acids.
- 23 totes holding unknown brown colored materials. Ms. Rasmussen said that the totes hold soap stock and some sort of contaminated vegetable oil. Each tote is labeled as Class 3 and Class 8 and marked as UN1289.
- Supersack containers were open. Number of supersacks not determined but between 5-10. Appeared to be holding orange colored micro-sized plastic beads contaminated with methylate. Liquids were leaking from the sacks onto the floor.
- Two of what appeared to be stainless steel pressure tanks had white crystals leaking from it. Might be methylate liquid that had crystallized when exposed to air.
- Paper sacks marked as lime setting on pallet. Some sacks ripped open and had hydrated into a yellow crust.
- Laboratory room-Jugs and bottles marked as holding hydrochloric acid and potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide stored next to each other inside of flammable cabinet. Heptane and methanol also stored in cabinet. Some of the jugs and bottles have shelf life dates of March and April 2015.
- Laboratory room-A flame hood looked to have had a test experiment in process when the plant shut down. Erlenmeyer flask on a stirrer holding unknown liquid under hood. White crystals on flask. Calendar on wall shows June 2014 which appears to be the time when the lab was last used.
- Under the flame hood various solvents in bottles, metal cans and jugs are stored.

- Chloroform and acetone marked on some of the containers.
- All of the tanks that held biodiesel appeared to be empty. Appears that Transmessis sold the biodiesel product but abandoned the chemicals.

I had previously sent a e-mail dated March 4, 2015 that described problems outside of the building. Other problems observed on March 10, 2015 outside of the building:

- The end of a 4-6 inch diameter pipe and valve leading out of one tank marked as "Sodium Methoxide Inbound" had white crystals formed around it. A smaller 1 inch diameter pipe had white crystal formed around it.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further clarification.

I will need to contact Ms. Rasmussen from OPDA to coordinate a time and day to have her open the facility to allow EPA Emergency Response inspect the facility. Let me know at your earliest convenience of when you plan to inspect the 206 West Railroad facility in Odessa, WA.

**Jerry French**  
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